Reviewer's report

Title: Profiling Bacterial Community in Upper Respiratory Tracts

Version: 2 Date: 22 August 2014

Reviewer: Dasa Stupica

Reviewer's report:

This is an interesting study on microbiota of the upper respiratory tract in healthy adults and in patients with viral respiratory infection. Since the interpretation of the results of the study is based on rather sophisticated statistical approaches I propose that the article is assessed by a statistician.

Main critiques:
- Basic characteristics of persons included in the study and time-frame in which specimens were obtained in patients and healthy adult persons should have been reported.
- Due to unmatched characteristics of patients and healthy controls the comparison of findings between the two groups is hampered.

Minor remarks:
- All abbreviations appearing in the article should have been explained.
- The article would benefit from more precise wording such as:
  line 27: microbiota and the VIRAL pathogen-affected ...
  line 79: HUMAN metapneumovirus
  line 103: respiratory sincytial (RSV)
  line 104: CoV
  line 107: explain OTUs
  line 115. explain abundance ratio
  line 235: impaired host cells meaning host with impaired immunity or respiratory tract cells impaired due to viral infection?

Table anf Figures: abbreviations should be explained

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.
Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.